

REMARKS

Reconsideration of the instant application is respectfully requested. The present amendment is responsive to the Office Action of March 17, 2005, in which claims 1-29 are presently pending. Of those, claims 22-26 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter regarded as the invention, as is set forth on page 2 of the present action.

With regard to the art of record, claim 1 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent 3,932,806 to Kawada. Claims 1, 2, 5, 6, 15 and 16 are also rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent 3,932,806 to Branch.

In addition, claims 1, 2, 5, 6, 15, 16, 19, 20, 26 and 29 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over prior art depicted in Figure 1 of the application. Claims 3, 4, 8, 9, 17, 18 and 22-25 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Figure 1, and further in view of U.S. Patent 6,549,017 to Coffeen. Claim 29 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Branch, in view of U.S. Patent 4,985,857 to Bajpai, et al. Finally, claims 7, 10-14, 21, 27 and 28 are objected to as being dependent on a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. For the following reasons, it is respectfully submitted that the application is now in condition for allowance.

Independent claims 1 and 29 have been amended to incorporate the elements of now cancelled claims 5 and 7 therein, thus rendering the same allowable over the art of record. Similarly, independent claim 15 has been amended to incorporate the elements of now cancelled claims 19 and 21 therein, thus rendering the same allowable over the art of record. Moreover, the remaining dependent claims are now also allowable over the art of

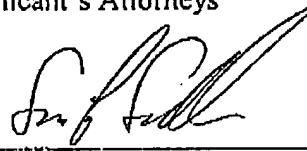
record, rendering the present §102 and §103 rejections moot. Further, the dependencies of claims 10-12, 22, and 24-26 have been amended as indicated above, thus overcoming the §112 rejections to claims 22-26.

For the above stated reasons, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is now in condition for allowance. No new matter has been entered and no additional fees are believed to be required. However, if any fees are due with respect to this Amendment, please charge them to Deposit Account No. 09-0458 maintained by Applicant's attorneys.

Respectfully submitted,
TIMOTHY M. TRIFILO

CANTOR COLBURN LLP
Applicant's Attorneys

By



Sean F. Sullivan
Registration No. 38,328
Customer No. 46429

Date: May 12, 2005
Address: 55 Griffin Road South, Bloomfield, CT 06002
Telephone: (860) 286-2929